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Copy No. 7CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
20 June 1953WORLD REACTION TO THE EAST GERMAN RIOTS  
(Report No. 2)Soviet Bloc

The East German press and radio have retained the initiative for the Orbit in giving the Communist line on the riots in East Germany. The original interpretation maintaining that the riots were inspired and perpetrated by "western agents" and "other reactionary elements" has been continued and painstakingly developed in an attempt to give their interpretation the character of a closed case.

Deputy Premier Otto Nuschke's statement that he had been "kidnapped" by "western provocateurs" was headlined on June 20 along with the "confession" of an alleged German "provocateur" from the US sector of Berlin. According to the report issued by the East German Security Forces, he confessed that the riots were inspired by the US, and fully supported by its money, material and Army personnel.

Neues Deutschland, East German communist organ, admitted on 20 June that widespread disorders in East Germany continued, although on 19 June it attempted to convey the impression that the movement had collapsed. On June 19-20, the East German press specifically referred to disorders in East Berlin, Magdeburg, Schwarza, Dresden, Goerlitz, Rossleben, Rathenon and Halle.

East German propaganda organs claim that SED headquarters have received a "flood of letters" which indignantly protest the fascist provocations. The workers are now said to have seen their mistake in "temporarily" succumbing to the influence of "fascist rabble" and are impatient to resume normal work. It was stated that the return of large numbers of workers to their jobs was the result of the unmasking of the instigators of the riots. The use of Soviet tanks was justified because, if the designs of the "western provocateurs" succeeded, "the fire of civil war and of war would have swept our fatherland." Soviet troops who defeated the Hitler Fascists are said to have also defeated the West Fascists sent into East Berlin on 17 June by the West.

State Department review completed

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Moscow papers on 20 June headlined TASS reports from Berlin accusing President Eisenhower of direct intervention intended "to encourage American agents in West Berlin whose adventure already has been a fiasco." Moscow has continued to follow East Germany's lead in reporting the riots by reflecting the editorial comment of East Germany's Neues Deutschland. Soviet press and radio have thus far avoided extensive original comment or speculation.

Rumania and Albania are the only Satellite governments which have not reported the riots. Other Satellites have reported the East German version of the disorders without individual comment.

US observers in Budapest and Warsaw report no signs of unusual security being instituted because of possible anti-regime demonstrations developing as a result of the events in East Germany. The Czech population appears to have reacted with feelings of guilt because they did not demonstrate as courageously against the monetary reform as the East Berliners did against their government. The Rumanians, informed through foreign broadcasts of the events in East Berlin, reacted with admiration for the Germans and were regretful that Rumanians lack spirit for such demonstrations.

#### Western Europe

In France, non-Communist leftist papers refute the communist line on the East German riots by asking how provocateurs, skillful though they may be, can incite a crowd of thousands to stand weaponless against machine guns and tanks. Other non-Communist papers continue to feature the demonstrations as the workers' and peoples' reaction to tyrannical Soviet policy. Communist L'Humanité reiterates the East German interpretation of the riots.

In the French National Assembly, Charles Lussy, leader of the Socialist group, referred to the object lesson of Communist counter-measures in Berlin by sarcastically rebuffing fellow traveler Pierre Cot's appeal for a popular front by saying, "It was rather out of place to speak of unity of action the day after the German workers' unity of action was broken by the fire of Soviet cannon."

In West Germany, the press continues to excoriate the ruthless execution of a West Berlin painter for his alleged role in the Berlin riots, and decry the use of force in controlling the Germans of East Berlin.

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West Berlin Mayor Reuter has now stated that he intends to initiate negotiations which will lead to free elections and the unification of the city but has indicated that he will first discuss the issue with the Allied High Commissioners.

American officials in Berlin feel that the riots have made the unity issue the paramount question in the minds of West Berliners, and that they are even more determined to achieve the re-unification of the city.

The Swedish press agrees that the riots show the East German government's failure to win the support of the laboring classes, and that the recent "concessions" served only to touch off the long-smouldering spark of revolt. Soviet plans for East Germany are said to have received a serious setback and the riots are reported to have served to make the hatred of Communism greater in both West and East Germany.

#### Near East

The Turkish Home Service terms the East German interpretation of the riots as "laughable" and pictures the rioting as showing to what extent the people behind the Iron Curtain hate Communism. The Greek press speculated that the riots may become a signal for other uprisings inside the Iron Curtain. One paper observed that of all the strange moves Soviet policy has made since Stalin's death, the most enigmatic is the one allowing anti-Soviet expressions like those in Prague and Berlin.

#### Far East

No comment to date.